

NEW YORK ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES AND LAWS



New York is the proud home of four Clean Cities:

Central New York
Long Island
Western New York
White Plains

Overview

New York has several sales tax exemptions for various alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). In addition, several state agencies fund alternative fuel projects on a case-by-case basis, including The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the New York Power Authority. Many of the state's utility companies also offer assistance for AFV projects on a case-by-case basis.

State Incentives

NYSERDA manages oil overcharge-funded alternative fuel projects with school districts, municipalities, and state agencies that were previously awarded by the New York State Energy Office. A U.S. Department of Energy grant is being used to implement a new Clean Cities Sharing Network through which fleet managers receive information on alternative fuel technology. The Clean Cities Challenge, to be initiated in late 1996, will provide cost-sharing for vehicle projects undertaken by Clean Cities Stakeholder fleets. NYSERDA, in cooperation with the City of New York, operates a voluntary natural gas taxi cab program that will pay 80% of the cost for converting a taxi to compressed natural gas (CNG) or 80% of the incremental cost of purchasing a new CNG taxi.

NYSERDA continues to co-fund AFV research and demonstration projects on a case-by-case basis. Projects must be innovative, show a New York component, meet NYSERDA's technical requirements, and not duplicate projects previously demonstrated in New York. Examples of current AFV projects include \$1 million for a program to develop, demonstrate, and commercialize advanced transportation technologies that conserve energy and are environmentally sound. For more information about funding for demonstration projects, call for the "Guide to Doing Business with the Energy Authority" at (518) 465-6251, extension 272. For additional information on NYSERDA's programs, contact Ruth Horton at (518) 862-1090, extension 3306.

DEC is responsible for the protection of the environment and public health, and seeks to reduce air, water, and land pollution, and controls emissions from motor vehicles, fuels, and fuel additives. DEC promotes the use of alternative fuels, but primarily from an emissions (clean air) standpoint. Funding for DEC-supported alternative fuels projects is allocated by NYSERDA. For more information, contact the DEC Bureau of Mobile Sources at (518) 485-8913.

The New York Power Authority co-funds several electric vehicle (EV) purchasing programs for Power Authority customers on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact the New York Power Authority at (518) 427-6580, or Bart Chezar at (212) 468-6727.

The Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, which passed on November 5, 1996, includes \$55 million for Air Quality Projects including a program of state assistance for purchase of alternative-fuel buses by transit authorities and municipalities, conversion of bus depots, and for purchase of AFVs and supporting refueling/recharging infrastructure by state agency fleets. NYSERDA will implement the alternative fuel bus program; the Office of General Services will conduct a study of the potential use of AFVs in state agency fleets and implement the state assistance program.

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Utility/Private Incentives

Long Island Lighting Company offers the NGV incentive program to provide rebates for NGVs on a case-by-case basis and a special competitive rates for CNG refueling. Long Island Lighting Company will also help secure CNG refueling station financing, provide technical assistance, and other services. For information on CNG services, contact Barry Allen at (516) 382-2084. For electric vehicle (EV) information, contact Ron Gulmi at (516) 545-5157 or Wai Moy at (516) 545-4850.

Niagara Mohawk Power provides CNG refueling station design assistance and other services. Niagara Mohawk Power will also help find infrastructure development companies for refueling station design and development. Additionally, Niagara Mohawk Power offers an equipment loaner program for chosen refueling stations. This program allows fleet refueling stations to borrow the necessary equipment to initiate their services, and then once the converted fleet is in full operation, Niagara Mohawk Power offers the equipment to another fleet. General qualifications for this program are that the fleet is large and has the capabilities to allow access to its equipment to outside fleets and the public. Niagara Mohawk Power also loans natural gas and EVs for demonstrations. For more information, contact Judith Brown at (315) 460-4086.

Brooklyn Union Gas provides financial assistance to natural gas vehicle (NGV) fleets on a case-by case basis. Financial awards are made depending on the fleet size, fuel amount used, and vehicle type. For NGV financial or marketing information, contact Tom Marzella at (718) 403-2677, or Clem Drummond at (718) 403-2768.

Con Edison has an NGV marketing department and operates 7 NGV refueling stations in New York that are open to the public. Incentives for NGVs are done on an individual basis. For more information, contact Mary Jane Delvicario at (212) 460-4369.

National Fuel provides assistance to public and private enterprises to establish public refueling stations by providing engineering, design, equipment selection, and installation guidance as appropriate. Contact Robert Culp at (814) 871-8290.

Laws & Regulations

New York State has adopted regulations establishing a centrally fueled clean fuel fleet program. This regulation applies to motor vehicle fleets operating vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating between 6,000 lbs and 26,000 lbs in areas of New York State designated as severe nonattainment with the national ambient air quality standard for ozone. (See 6 NYCRR Part 210.)

New York established a 6-year, \$40 million comprehensive Alternative Fuel Vehicle Fleet Demonstration Program (AFVFDP) to learn the practical requirements of operating AFVs, determine their costs, and assist potential users in adapting to the use of these vehicles. This program is in its sixth year. All data has been collected, and a final report is expected in December 1996.

New York has adopted the California low emission vehicles (LEV) program. (See 6 NYCRR Part 218.)

Statute 19-0319 in the Environmental Conservation Law calls for a centrally fueled fleet program to be in place no later than May 15, 1994. This program must contain provisions requiring a certain percentage of all new covered fleet vehicles purchased in 1998 and thereafter, operate on clean alternative fuels.

The state exempts retail sales tax for the difference between the cost of a new or converted AFV and the list price of a comparable vehicle.

The sale of natural gas at alternative refueling stations is not regulated by the Public Service Commission.

New York City Council established a program in 1991 requiring the purchase and/or conversion of AFVs for city government use. The program required 80% of the light-duty non-emergency fleet, and 15% of the transit buses to be alternatively fueled.

The New York State Energy Plan in 1989 called for a 50% increase in the use of natural gas in the state by the year 2000.

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Points of Contact

Central New York Clean Cities Coordinator

Joseph Barry (315) 422-5716
City of Syracuse

Long Island Clean Cities Coordinator

Mark Noonan (516) 853-6007
Long Island Regional Planning Board

Western New York Clean Cities Coordinator

William Pauly (716) 836-0198
Clean Communities of Western New York

White Plains Clean Cities Coordinator

Joseph Nicoletti, Jr. (914) 422-1210
City of White Plains

Future Clean Cities

Genesee Region Clean Cities Coalition

Paul Heaney (716) 889-9516

New York City Clean Cities Coalition

Mark Simon (718) 595-4432

New York State Energy Office

New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority
Ruth Horton (518) 862-1090
extension 3306

Department of Environmental Conservation

Tony Tagliaferro (518) 485-8913

New York Power Authority

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(212) 468-6727

Long Island Lighting Company

Barry Allen (516) 382-2084
Ron Gulmi (516) 545-5157
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Niagara Mohawk Power

Judith Brown (315) 460-4086

Brooklyn Union Gas

Tom Marzella (718) 403-2677
Clement Drummond (718) 403-2768

Con Edison

Mary Jane Devicario (212) 460-4369

National Fuel

Robert Culp (814) 871-8290

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council

Raymond Ruggieri (212) 938-3390

Capital District Transportation Committee

John Poorman (518) 458-2161

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council

Salomon Kealy (914) 486-3600

Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Jeffory Perry (315) 422-5716

Niagara Frontier Transportation Committee

Edward H. Small, Jr., P.E. (716) 856-2026

New York State Transportation Contact

State Department of Transportation
Comprehensive Transportation Planning
Management Group
Clarence Fosdick (518) 457-7055

U.S. Department of Energy

Regional Support Office

Boston Regional Support Office
Noel Clay (617) 565-9716

U.S. Department of Transportation Contacts

Federal Highway Administration

Region 1
Alicia Nolan (518) 431-4224
extension 236

Federal Transit Administration

Region 2
Robert Ritter (212) 264-8162

General Services Administration

Regional Fleet Manager

Region 2
Brian Smith (212) 264-3930

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator

Region 2
Janet Sapadin (212) 637-3584